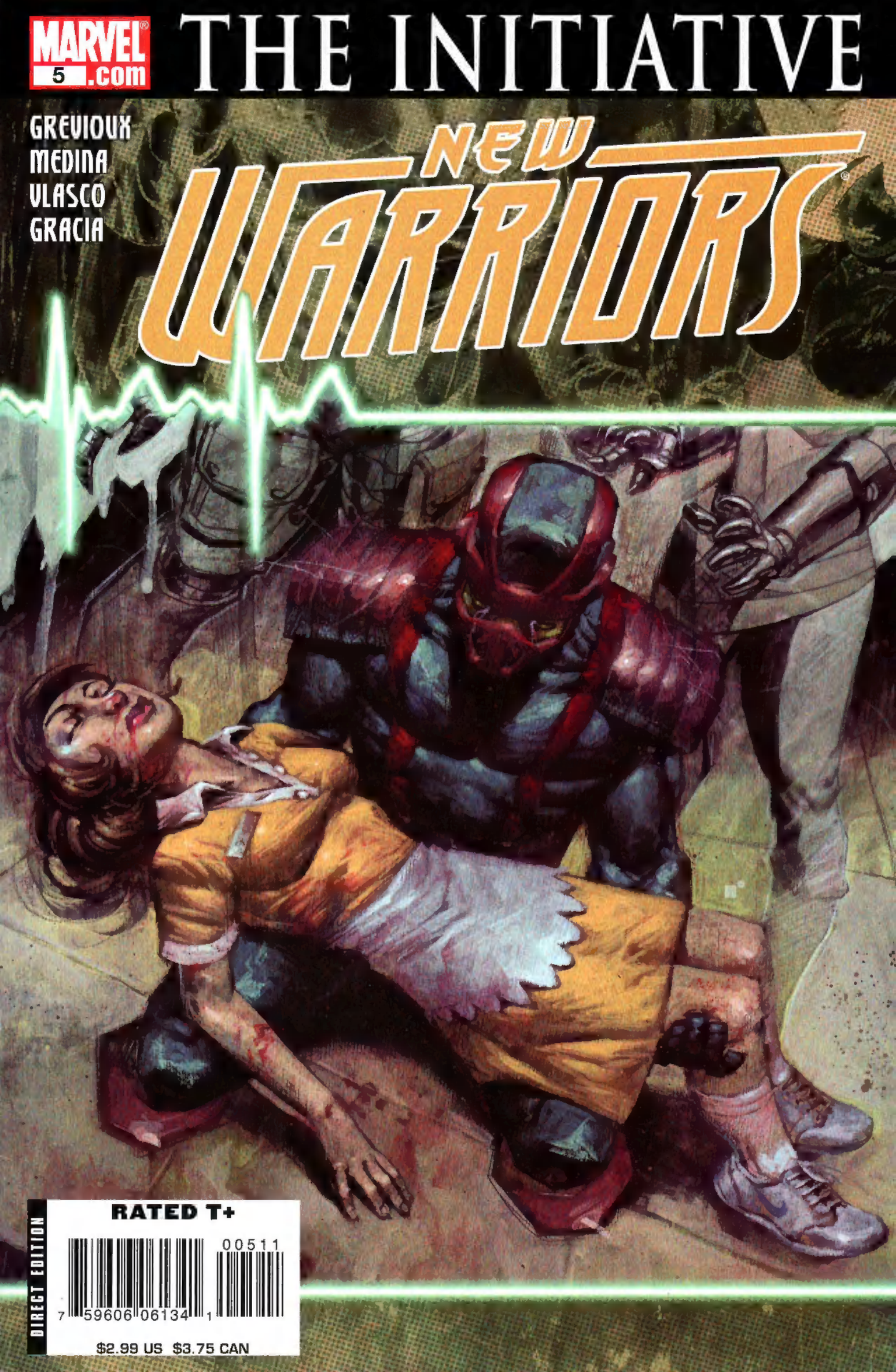
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"THOUGH THEY GO MAD...
"...THEY SHALL BE SANE...
...TONY...
...NOT AGAIN...
"THOUGH THEY SINK THROUGH THE SEA...
LIVE
"...THEY SHALL RISE AGAIN.
THE ZODIAC HAS JUST KILLED A MEMBER OF THE NEW WARRIORS--
"THOUGH LOVERS BE LOST...
"...LOVE SHALL NOT...

SH-KOW!
DOWN!
AAH--!
KRAKOOM
WHUD
UUGGHH!
AGHK!
SPLUD

THROW!!
EVERYONE TAKE COVER!
WE'RE NOT GONNA MAKE IT.
OVER THERE!
LOOK AT THEM RUN.
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS. WE HAVE TO SUMMON THE OTHERS.

THIS IS GETTIN' BAD...
WE JUST GOT A DISPATCH. S.H.I.E.L.D.'S ON THE WAY!
THEY KILLED HER--THEY KILLED MY SISTER--
SHUT UP, PHASER, AND PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER. I'M THINKING.
EVERYONE: STATUS--
THEY GOT US PINNED.
I'M CHANGING BATTERIES--I NEED A LITTLE TIME.
WE CAN'T STAY HERE, THRASH--I HAVE LIKE FIVE ROUNDS LEFT--
ZZZAK!
ZZZAK!

YOU CAN'T MESS WITH THE NEW WARRIORS!
WE TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN!
FZAT
BOOM
AAH-=!

HEY--!

MY NAME IS SOFIA MANTEGA. I USED TO BE THE MUTANT NAMED *WIND DANCER.*
AN *X-MAN.* A *HERO.*

LOOK!
IS THAT *SOFIA??*
THOSE DAYS ARE *OVER.* BUT IT'S TAKEN ME UNTIL NOW TO REALIZE...

EVEN THOUGH I CAN NO LONGER FLY...
...NOR CONTROL THE WIND...

...I WILL ALWAYS BE ABLE TO DANCE!
CHOK
DAMN YOU--
SOFIA
KEEP THAT CAMERA ON HER!
I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES! A WAITRESS HAS JUST ATTACKED SCORPIO!
SCORPIO! WATCH IT!
AAH--!
QUICK! SOFIA BOUGHT US SOME TIME-- EVERYONE: RED DOG 44!
GO!
GO!

AAH--!
POMP!
I CAN'T SEE!
EEEEEEEEEEEEEE
ZZAK!
FWOOOSH!

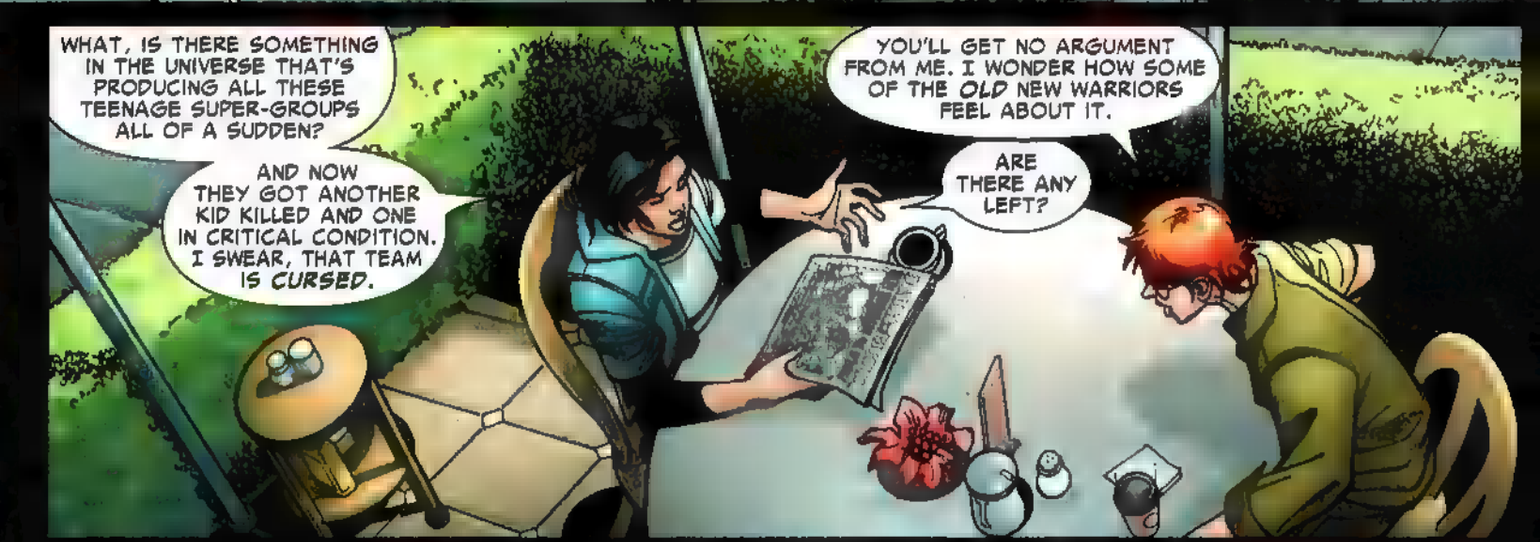
CHUNK
CHUNK
CHUNK
COME ON, KID-- HURRY!
WHAT ABOUT MY BIKE?
NOW JUST STAY TH--
ZZZAP!
AAAHH--!
SOFIA!

SLAM!
WHAM! BAM! WHAM! BAM!
SHE--WAS--MY--FRIEND!
ZODIAC! THERE'S NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO [redacted].
ANOTHER TIME, WARRIORS--
ANOTHER TIME!

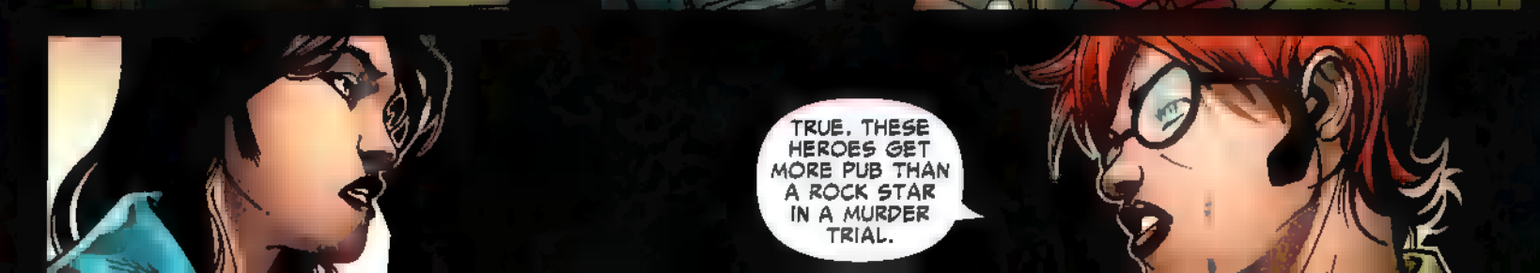
YOU'RE OKAY...IT'S NOT THAT BAD...YOU'RE OKAY...
NO. SHE SAVED OUR LIVES. WE DON'T LEAVE SOLDIERS BEHIND.
C'MON, THRASH--WE GOTTA JET BEFORE S.H.I.E.L.D. GETS HERE!
IT'S OKAY...
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF HER. YOU KIDS BOLT BEFORE THE FEDS ARRIVE.
BUT--
WE CAN'T HELP HER, MATE. LOOK AT HER--SHE'S BETTER OFF WITH THE PARAMEDICS.
YOU TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER.
WE'LL DO OUR BEST.
MMUW

I THINK WE SPOKE TOO SOON.
I DON'T THINK OUR BEST WOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH.

NEW WARRIORS FOIL ZODIAC
INITIATIVE DEFEATED. HEROIC WAITRESS INJURED WHILE
CHILDREN, CRITICAL CONDITION. S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS HOLES
HERE WE GO AGAIN.
FIRST THE YOUNG AVENGERS, NOW THE ALL-NEW, ALL-DIFFERENT NEW WARRIORS.


WHAT, IS THERE SOMETHING IN THE UNIVERSE THAT'S PRODUCING ALL THESE TEENAGE SUPER-GROUPS ALL OF A SUDDEN?
AND NOW THEY GOT ANOTHER KID KILLED AND ONE IN CRITICAL CONDITION. I SWEAR, THAT TEAM IS CURSED.
YOU'LL GET NO ARGUMENT FROM ME. I WONDER HOW SOME OF THE OLD NEW WARRIORS FEEL ABOUT IT.
ARE THERE ANY LEFT?

WHAT? YOU DON'T READ THE PAPERS? LIKE MOST OF THE TEAM IS IN THE INITIATIVE.
paris.coffee
PLEASE, KAT, OVER AT FRONTLINE WE DO REAL JOURNALISM. WHO CARES ABOUT TEAM ROSTERS?


TRUE. THESE HEROES GET MORE PUB THAN A ROCK STAR IN A MURDER TRIAL.

STILL, THERE MIGHT BE A STORY THERE...IF YOU'RE UP TO IT.
SOUNDS LIKE A CHALLENGE.
FIRST ONE TO GET THE STORY BUYS LUNCH FOR A WEEK.
I'M WARNING YOU, WHEN SOMEONE ELSE HAS THE TAB, I DON'T DO CALZONES OR PHILLY CHEESESTEAKS.
I DON'T PLAN ON LOSING.
YOU'RE ON.
YOU REALLY THINK THERE'S SOMETHING THERE, HUH?
THINK ABOUT IT, SALLY...I MEAN, WHAT MAKES A GROUP OF KIDS DEFY AN EXECUTIVE ORDER BANNING ALL UNREGISTERED SUPERHUMAN ACTIVITY AND THEN TAKE THE NAME OF THE GROUP WHO CAUSED THE LAW IN THE FIRST PLACE?
DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.
MAYBE THERE'S SOMEBODY BEHIND THEM.
WHERE YOU GOING?
TO WORK UP AN APPETITE.

MY ANGEL.
MY DEAR, SWEET ANGEL.
MAMA?
I'M COMING HOME, MAMA. TO BE WITH YOU!
ONE DAY, PERHAPS, BUT YOUR TIME IS NOT YET COME.
I'VE MISSED YOU. I HAVE SO MUCH TO TELL YOU.
THUMP! THUMP!
WHAT'S THAT?
YOU HAVE MUCH MORE TO DO. GOOD-BYE, MY ANGEL.
BUT REMEMBER, I WILL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU.
DON'T LEAVE ME, MAMA!
MAMA!

ALRIGHT, YOU CAN BRING HER OUT OF IT NOW.
MASSIVE CONCUSSION, BLEEDING ON THE BRAIN, CARDIAC ARREST, SECOND AND THIRD DEGREE BURNS--
THIS ONE SURPRISED ME.
HOW OLD IS SHE? SEVENTEEN?
IF THAT. WE WERE LUCKY WE WERE ABLE TO RELIEVE THE PRESSURE ON HER BRAIN WHEN WE DID. COULD'VE [illegible] A LOT WORSE.
NO THANKS TO THOSE "NEW WARRIORS".
I WOULDN'T BE TOO HARD ON THEM. KIDS WILL BE KIDS.
DANGEROUS KIDS.
THEY SAVED A LOT OF LIVES TODAY.
IF THAT DOESN'T COUNT FOR SOMETHING, I DON'T KNOW WHAT DOES.

THIS [redacted] A P.R. NIGHTMARE FOR YOU AND YOUR WHOLE PRECIOUS INITIATIVE. THEY GOT THEIR HEADS HANDED TO THEM ON NATIONAL TELEVISION. THIS WHOLE PROGRAM IS A *COMPLETE WASHOUT.*
JUST CALM DOWN AND *THINK* A MINUTE, KOONING. IF YOU CALL FOR THEIR HEADS AFTER THE WHOLE WORLD SAW WHAT THEY DID AGAINST THE ZODIAC, IT'S GOING TO BE THE *GOVERNMENT* THAT LOOKS LIKE THE BAD GUYS. I CAN GUARANTEE YOU THAT.
AND WHOSE FAULT [redacted] THAT? YOU'VE JUST MADE OUR JOB *TEN TIMES* MORE DIFFICULT.
OR, [redacted] COULD TURN IT TO OUR *ADVANTAGE.*
HOW?
I DIDN'T BECOME A BILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST BY BEING A *FOOL.* A SITUATION THIS DELICATE TAKES TIME.
I'M GONNA GIVE YOU ONE MORE SHOT, STARK. BUT IF YOU'RE WRONG--
I'M *NOT,* MR. SECRETARY.
TRUST ME ON THIS.

THE BAXTER BUILDING.
YOU DO REALIZE THAT I AM UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO CONCEDE TO THE AMERICAN JUSTICE SYSTEM.
HIDING BEHIND DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY, EH? GUILTY CONSCIENCE, "YOUR HIGHNESS"?
MERELY WIELDING THE POWER BEFITTING MY STATION.
LIKE I SAID.
DETECTIVES. PLEASE, STATE YOUR BUSINESS AND BE ON YOUR WAY.
YOU'RE AWARE OF A TEAM OF SUPERHUMAN[redacted] KNOWN AS THE NEW WARRIORS?
PAST OR PRESENT?
FUNNY.
I DON'T JOKE.
BUT LET ME STATE FOR THE RECORD, I AM IN FULL SUPPORT OF ANYONE OR ANYTHING THAT HAS ARRAYED ITSELF AGAINST WHAT STARK AND HIS MINIONS HAVE WROUGHT.
YOU DON'T SAY?
BECAUSE, "YOUR HIGHNESS," [redacted] HAVE CREDIBLE EVIDENCE THAT THIS CURRENT INCARNATION IS BEING FUNDED BY A CONSIDERABLY WEALTHY SOURCE.
TO [redacted] SPECIFIC: SEVERAL OFFSHORE COMPANIES THAT ARE ALL SUBSIDIARIES OF WAKANDA HOLDINGS, LLC.

YOUR HIGHNESS.
WHAT'S THIS?
DIGITAL MANIFESTS OF ALL THE SHIPMENTS AND ORDER NUMBERS OF THE ITEMS AND SUBSIDIARIES IN QUESTION.
HOW DO WE KNOW THEY HAVEN'T BEEN DOCTORED?
YOU *DON'T*. YOU HAVE ONLY THE *WORD* OF THE KING OF WAKANDA.
WELL, THE BARON OF BROOKLYN SAYS THAT WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO CHECK THESE OUT BEFORE WE CAN TAKE YOUR WORD. YOU MIND IF WE TAKE THIS?
OF COURSE.
DETECTIVE, YOU MAY NOT KNOW THIS, BUT WE SHARE A *KINSHIP*, A *MOTHERLAND*. THERE IS NO NEED FOR *POSTURING*.
I'M JUST HERE TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH.
THEN STOP LOOKING FOR CONSPIRACIES WHERE THERE ARE NONE.
AS WE SAY IN MY LAND: "*IF YOU WANT TO CATCH THE BEST FISH, CAST YOUR NET CLOSER TO HOME...*"
IF YOU DARE.

MEANWHILE...
IT'S YOUR FAULT!
TATTOO WAS DOGGIN' IT AND YOU KNOW IT! ALWAYS COMPLAININ', SKIPPING TRAINING! SHE WAS A LIABILITY!
SHE'S DEAD, SKYBOLT. HAVE SOME RESPECT!
AND I'M SORRY 'BOUT THAT, BUT THIS AIN'T THE BOY SCOUTS, YOUNG'UN. THIS HERE GAME'S FER KEEPS.
NO ONE SIGNS UP TO DIE, VIN. NOT EVEN WHEN WE WERE WITH THE X-MEN.
MAYBE HE'S RIGHT. THRASH ISN'T EVEN HERE HALF THE TIME. LIKE WE AREN'T WORTH IT.
MAYBE IF WE WERE BETTER TRAINED--
ANGEL, YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT, DO YOU?
I DON'T KNOW... MAYBE.
MY SISTER'S BLOOD IS ON HIS HANDS!
THIS IS WAR, CHRISTIAN. IT'S PART OF THE GAME.
WHAT ABOUT NEXT TIME?? HOW MANY OF US ARE SUPPOSED TO DIE BECAUSE OF HIS CAUSE?
IT'S OUR CAUSE. WE'RE A TEAM!
THEN WE SHOULD ACT LIKE ONE.
THAT'S ENOUGH.

EVERYONE, LISTEN UP...
I MADE MYSELF A PROMISE WHEN I FORMED THIS TEAM THAT *NO ONE* WOULD FALL ON MY WATCH. THAT EITHER WE ALL GO HOME OR NO ONE GOES HOME. THAT, COME HELL OR HIGH WATER, WE WOULDN'T END UP LIKE THE LAST TEAM.
BUT ONE OF OUR OWN FELL TODAY AND ANOTHER WAS BADLY INJURED DEFENDING US WHEN WE WERE BACK ON OUR HEELS. AS TEAM LEADER, IT WAS *MY* RESPONSIBILITY AND, BY EXTENSION, *MY FAULT.*
C'MON, THRASH. WE ALL KNEW THE DEAL WHEN WE JOINED. NO ONE BLAMES YOU.
QUIET, RIPCORD.
WE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, BUT WHEN IT CAME DOWN TO IT...WE JUST WEREN'T GOOD ENOUGH. AND I *REFUSE* TO PUT ANY MORE LIVES ON THE LINE.
AS A RESULT... I'M *PULLING THE PLUG.*
HUH?
THRASH, WHAT'S UP? TALK TO ME.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
JUST WHAT I SAID, BLACKWING.
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, THE NEW WARRIORS ARE OFFICIALLY *DISBANDED!*
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE: